



Making Tracks

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Making Tracks
Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304
www.mdc.mo.gov

2004 Coming Events...

Landowner Field Day

March 20 August A. Busch Conservation Area

Wetlands for Kids

April 3 August A. Busch Conservation Area

Kids Fishing Fair

May 15 August A. Busch Conservation Area

Prairie Days

September 11 Shaw Nature Reserve

National Hunting & Fishing Day

September 25

Call (636) 441-4554 for more information on these events.

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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

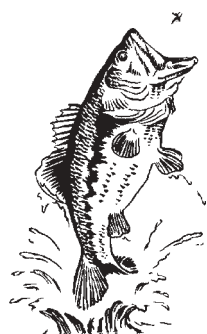
March 2004

Volume 04, Number 03



A Fish Story

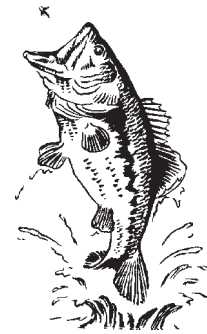
By Colleen Scott, Naturalist



While on the way home from fishing, a man got a flat tire in front of a monastery. He had barely opened the trunk when heavy rains set in. Fortunately, a monk appeared offering the man dinner while he waited out the weather.

*After consuming a tasty meal of fish and chips, the man wanted to compliment the chef.
So, he went to the kitchen and asked, "Are you the fish friar?"*

"No," the cook replied, "I'm the chip monk."



Bah dump bump. But seriously folks, the Missouri Department of Conservation's Show-Me Missouri Fish Mobile Aquarium and related activities will be at Powder Valley from April 22-25. The exhibit, which is 40 feet long and holds 3200 gallons of water, is no joke but very entertaining as well as educational.

Visitors of all ages can enjoy the natural setting of logs, rocks and plants, which features up to 70 Missouri fish, while observing angling techniques and learning about fish adaptations, aquatic ecology and more!

On April 22-23, student groups discover both big river and pond ecosystems via this "slice" of river habitat and as they collect specimens from an amphibious pond. Grades pre-K-2 make a

tadpole-to-frog craft. Grades 3-12 walk through a fish I.D. key. Reservations for student programs are required. Call (314) 301-1500, ext. 2231 to register and/or for details. Even if your class has already reserved another field trip topic on another date, your class is still eligible to make reservations for the Mobile Aquarium.

Reservations are not required for the general public. On April 24-25, demonstrations occur from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. to noon, 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m., and 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. We won't be frying any fish, but we will offer entertaining and informative activities for young and old alike.

By the way, do you know where fish keep their money? Sorry, you'll have to visit to find out.



2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

6

Timber Doodles

Saturday5:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

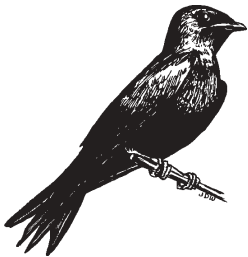
(Adults) Come see and hear timber doodles in their natural habitat. We will take a short hike and then wait for the timber doodles to begin their courtship display shortly after sunset. This “nature show” belongs to one of the strangest members of the bird world. Learn how the timber doodle locates and catches its food. This is the night of the full moon, so the birds may display longer. (Reservations begin February 20.)

9

It’s Purple Martin Time

Tuesday7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Purple martins eat only flying insects, so you won’t find them flocking to any of your birdfeeders. They do, however, take up residence exclusively in compartment houses. Becoming a purple martin landlord is one of the most gratifying experiences you can have as a backyard birder. Treat these tenants right and they won’t forget you — most martins return to the same house year after year. Discover how you can enjoy these beautiful insect-eating swallows in your own backyard. (Reservations begin February 24.)

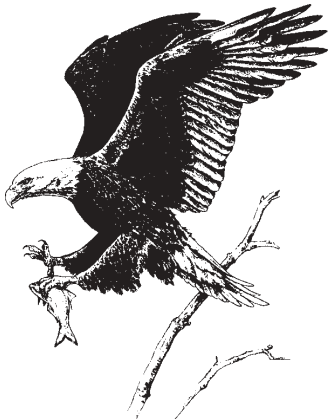


13

Scout Discovery Table: Endangered Species

Saturday10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(Scouts) We know that the passenger pigeon is extinct and the bald eagle is threatened, but what about the wolf, bison and barn owl? Discover which animals are extinct, endangered and rare. **Bears:** Sharing Your World with Wildlife Achievement #5e; **Brownies:** Eco-Explorers #5; **Juniors:** Wildlife #6. (No reservations required.)



13

Summer of Song

Saturday10 a.m. – Noon

(All Ages) Make your garden, deck or backyard more cheerful this summer. Invite one of the greatest songsters in the bird family to spend the summer. Learn about house wrens, build a wren house and get ready for a summer of song. (Reservations begin February 27.)

22

EEK! A Skunk

Monday9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon

(Ages Preschool) Skunks have a bad reputation but are actually very shy and non-aggressive animals, only using their “weapon” as a last resort. Come sniff out the real facts about skunks. “I never met a skunk I didn’t like” – Anonymous. (Reservations begin March 8.)



24

Painting from Nature

Wednesday10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 7-12) There is something compelling about the sight of a bird in nature. Its unique beauty cannot be improved upon. Watching a bird behaving naturally is inspiring. One of the best ways to recreate these experiences and to communicate a sense of “being there” is painting. If you’ve always wanted to draw birds but did not have anyone to teach you, your problem is solved! Join us to discover how to sketch and paint a bird from a model. This program will help you capture your subjects and their habitats realistically. (Reservations begin March 8.)

27

The Wonders of Wildflowers

Saturday10 a.m. – Noon

(All Ages) Wildflowers paint vivid colors across the prairies. Unlimited opportunities to view native wildflowers exist at Busch Conservation Area. Join a volunteer naturalist on a guided walk along one of the many trails and discover firsthand the vibrant colors that line the trails as wildflowers beckon you in the distance. (Reservations begin March 12.)

Busch Shooting Range & Training Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304
(636) 441-4554
Range Hours: October 1 – April 30, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Friday – Tuesday
Closed Wednesdays and Thursdays, state holidays and special events.

2

Crappie & Pan Fishing Seminar

Tuesday7 p.m.

(All Ages) Come to our seminar for information and techniques on how to catch some of Missouri’s best fish species, such as crappie, rock bass, sunfish and bluegill. Join Master Crappie Angler Rick Flint and other staff experts for this fun evening. (Registration begins January 16 and closes February 29.)

11

Turkey Calling Basics Seminar

Thursday6:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Learn more about the different types of turkey calls and their use from our experts. Nationally renowned turkey calling champion and aficionado Ralph Duren will be featured. (Registration begins January 24 and ends March 8.)

16

Nuisance Animal Trapping Seminar

Tuesday6 p.m.

(All Ages) Come listen and talk with our MDC experts about the regulations, equipment and techniques to trap and remove nuisance animals. (Registration begins January 30 and ends March 14.)

27

Women in the Outdoors Event

SaturdayAll Day

(Women, Ages 14 & up) This event offers seminars on outdoor skills, conducted by professionals from the outdoor industry and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). This event is sponsored by the National Wild Turkey Federation’s Women in the Outdoors (NWTF WITO) and the MDC. The \$45 registration fee covers administrative costs and a one-year membership in the NWTF Women in the Outdoors, one-year subscription to the *Women in the Outdoors Magazine*, WITO visor and lunch. To register or for more information, contact Carol Shulte at (636) 978-6429.

Jay Henges Shooting Range & Training Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049
(636) 938-9548
Range Hours: September 1 – April 30, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday – Sunday
Closed Mondays and Tuesdays, state holidays and special events.

4

Beginning Backpacking

Thursday7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

(Adults) Learn the basics of backpacking. Equipment needs will be discussed as well as opportunities for this outdoor activity on Missouri Conservation Areas in the St. Louis Region.

10

Trapping Nuisance Wildlife

Wednesday6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

(Adults) Meet with MDC private service wildlife damage biologists to learn how to effectively trap nuisance wildlife. Strategies will be discussed to minimize recurrence of wildlife and human conflicts.

11 & 13

Shotgun Patterning

Thursday6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Saturday10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 11 & up) Learn the importance of patterning your shotgun. Topics will include ammunition, choke systems and gauges. Learn to select the right combination to meet your sport shooting needs.

13

Introduction to Shotshell Reloading

Saturday1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

(Adults) Learn the basics of shotshell reloading. Topics will include shotshell components, reloading press selection, tools, reloading bench, safety tips and cost benefits. This program will be both lecture and hands-on participation.

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

6 Masters of the Night – The Amazing World of Bats

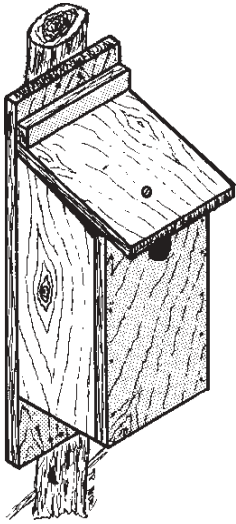
Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Families) Come discover the myths and legends of the dark world of bats. You will have fun learning all about Mother Nature’s “bug zappers,” unique and helpful animals. You’ll discover that bats are not the horrible creatures portrayed in movies. Help conserve, respect and protect one of the most endangered species in North America by building a bat house for your garden. (Reservations begin February 20.)

13 Voices of Spring – Aquatic Adventures

Saturday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Families) Spring is a time of rejuvenation, especially at the water’s edge. We will investigate the new happenings in our woodland pond as frogs and salamanders come out of hibernation. Explore the pond ecosystem for new life. The program is outdoors, so dress for a mess. (Reservations begin March 1.)

16 Frontiers Techniques on Safe Campfire Starting Using Primitive Methods

Tuesday 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
(Ages 7 & up) This Missouri Conservation Frontiers program covers different campfire styles and how to start a fire without a match. After the program, successful campfire starters will enjoy roasted marshmallows. (Reservations begin March 2.)



22 Toddling into Nature – The Songs of Spring

Monday 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) With winter on its way out and spring officially here, the animals are waking up with lots of noise! Frogs, bears, birds and snakes — just who is making all that noise? Join us this month as we explore the songs of spring, make an animal call and head outdoors in search of noisy animals! (Reservations begin March 8.)

22 Birds of a Feather

Monday 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-10) It’s that time of year when birds begin migrating. How do they do it? Where are they coming from? Where are they going? In this program, we will explore the fascinating world of birds, try our hand at making binoculars you can take home and search for those migrating creatures in the trees of Rockwoods. (Reservations begin March 8.)



25 Beginning Birds

Thursday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Families) Have you ever been curious about what kinds of birds you might see in your backyard? If you are new to birding, you may have questions about where to go and look for birds. We’ll share our knowledge and enthusiasm to introduce you to the basics of bird identification and how to use binoculars. We will finish by testing our new skills as we hike the Rock Quarry Trail looking for resident birds. Dress for the weather and please don’t forget your binoculars. (Reservations begin March 8.)

28 Recycled Treasures

Sunday 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
(Families) Why settle for store-bought paper when you can enjoy a family workshop and make paper crafts and cards? Learn to make paper in several colors using recycled and other paper materials, seeds and dried materials. Please bring old towels, newspapers and an old cookie sheet. (Reservations begin March 8.)

31 Recycled Treasures

Wednesday 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
(Families) Why settle for store-bought paper when you can enjoy a family workshop and make paper crafts and cards? Learn to make paper in several colors using recycled and other paper materials, seeds and dried materials. Please bring old towels, newspapers and an old cookie sheet. (Reservations begin March 15.)

**All Month Scout Discovery Table:
Conservation Careers &
Area Information**
Self-guided exhibit

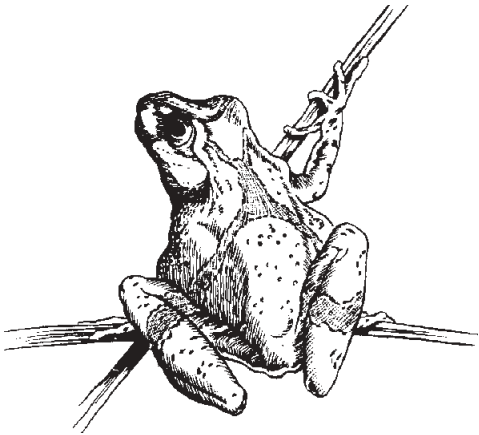
Check out the many opportunities in the field of conservation and pick up some information about nearby conservation areas. This exhibit is designed for **Junior Girl Scouts** to accomplish Let’s Get Outdoors: Your Outdoor Surroundings #7 and for **Cub Scout Bears** to accomplish Sharing Your World With Wildlife (Achievement #5c,d). All are welcome and no reservations are required.

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

13 Homes for Rent

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon
(Families) We have one-bedroom homes for several new growing families; we just need the builders to put them together! Come spend some quality family time learning about the nesting habits of cavity-nesting birds. Enjoy a short hike to discover how we can provide nesting opportunities around our homes and neighborhoods. Then, roll up your sleeves, grab a hammer and build a birdhouse of your own. (Reservations begin February 27.)



20 Amphibian Night Hike

Saturday 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
(All Ages) People have long looked for robins or wildflowers to tell them that spring is coming. On this hike, we are going to listen for the frogs telling us that spring is coming! Spring peepers and chorus frogs will lead the choir, and maybe some pickerel frogs, leopard frogs and wood frogs will join in. By the time we are done, you will be able to tell the different calls apart. Bring your flashlight (a set of ear plugs might be useful too) and dress warmly as we explore Columbia Bottom listening to the early songs of spring. (Reservations begin March 5.)

23 Meet Me at the Confluence

Tuesday 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 15 & up) This is your chance to get to know the confluence at Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. Learn about the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and the wildlife found in the area. View the confluence and surrounding area through spotting scopes and binoculars and learn how to use both for best results. Spotting scopes and binoculars will be available to use or bring your own. Reaching the Confluence Viewing Platform requires a short, 100-yard walk and is handicapped accessible. (Reservations begin March 9.)



Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

ALL MONTH
Scout Discovery Table
State Symbols

Self-guided exhibit
(All Ages) Learn about the Missouri state symbols that are connected to the outdoors. Designed for **Junior Girl Scouts**: Let's Get Outdoors, Wildlife #1; **Wolves**: Your Flags, Achievement #2d; and **Bears**: What Makes America Special?, Achievement #3e. All are welcome and encouraged. Check it out! (No reservations necessary.)

March Hallway
Exhibit
TEN OF ARTS



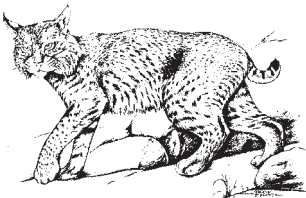
Powder Valley welcomes back the artists of Ten of Arts. The Ten of Arts group has been exhibiting at Powder Valley for several years. The group has been together for over 10 years. Several members belong to the St. Louis Artists Guild. Members work in various media.

View the artwork of your favorite member of Ten of Arts during the month of March.

HOMESCHOOL

2 Missouri Felines:
Bobcats and Mountain Lions

Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
(Ages 7-12) Do you know the difference between a bobcat and a mountain lion? Learn about these cousins by investigating feline clues and evidence to determine identity, age, health and more. (Reservations begin February 17.)



2 Lewis & Clark Keelboat Crew

Tuesday 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.
(Ages 3-6) Children explore our 1/2 scale replica of “the Barge” while becoming familiar with some of the supplies used as well as plants and animals seen on the journey. (Reservations begin February 17.)



8 Hiking at Powder Valley

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) Let's take an early spring hike on Hickory Ridge Trail and see what birds, trees and wildflowers are out. (Reservations begin February 23.)

17 Emmenegger Hike

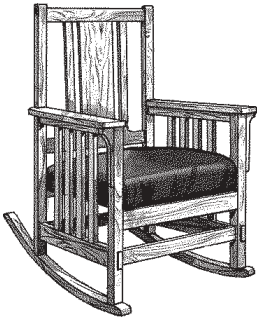
Wednesday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 7 & up) Join us for a walk along the main Emmenegger trail to view early signs of spring. Meet at the bridge. (Reservations begin March 3.)

22 Hiking at Powder Valley

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
(Adults) Let's take an early spring hike on Broken Ridge Trail to see what birds, trees and wildflowers are out. (Reservations begin March 8.)

25 Rocking Chair Story Time

Thursday 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
(Families) Come enjoy a fun-packed time of hearing stories, using puppets and experiencing surprises galore! (No reservations required.)



Resident Artisan
Louis Mueller, Blacksmith

Saturday, March 27
10 a.m.– 11:30 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Longfellow wrote “Under the spreading chestnut tree, the village smithy stands.” Blacksmiths have been using metal to ply their craft throughout history. Blacksmiths made the anchors for the sailing ships of Columbus, forged the chain across the Hudson River to block the British fleet and repaired the arms and equipment of George Washington's troops while they camped at Valley Forge.

Lewis and Clark knew the importance of the blacksmith. Corps members John Shields, William Bratton and Alexander Willard were blacksmiths. John Shields was the primary blacksmith mentioned in the journals of both Lewis and Clark. While the Corps camped at Camp Wood the winter of 1803-04, the blacksmiths made iron hinges and fixtures for the modifications that were made to the keelboat. Journal entries were made during the expedition recounting the ingenuity of the blacksmiths in repairing guns, making arrow points and scraping instruments for trade. Clark's entry of February 6, 1805, at Fort Mandan states:

“The blacksmiths take a considerable quantity of corn today in payment for their labor. They have proved a happy reso[r]ce to us in our present situation as I believe it would have been difficult to have devised any other methods to have procured corn from the natives I permitted the blacksmith to dispose of part of a sheet iron callaboos (camboose, stove) which been nearly birnt out on our passage up the river, and for each piece about four inches square he obtained from seven to eight gallons of corn from the natives who appeared extreemly pleased with the exchange.”

Learn more about blacksmithing when Powder Valley welcomes blacksmith Louis Mueller. Mueller has a long history of metal working. He has been in the metal fabrication, and tool and die business for more than 50 years. Mueller started blacksmithing as a hobby 20 years ago. His work consists of mainly historic pieces and artwork. For six years Mueller served as president of the Artisan Blacksmiths Association of North America, the largest organization of blacksmiths in the world.

Join Louis Mueller as he demonstrates the historical craft of blacksmithing. Demonstrations will be held outdoors, so please dress for the weather.
No reservations are required.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center
Nature Films

March 6 & 7

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Just Kiddin' Around volume 2
Eyewitness: Butterfly & Moth
11 a.m. – Noon & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Missouri's Tallgrass Prairie:
An American Original
The Family Life of Birds

March 13 & 14

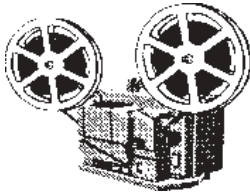
10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Eyewitness: Amphibian
Eyewitness: Fish
11 a.m. – Noon & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Headwaters
Fish

March 21

(No films on March 20.)
10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Eyewitness: Plant
MAGIC SCHOOL BUS: Gets Planted
11 a.m. – Noon & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Forestry Research & Practices II
Creating an Urban Oasis

March 27 & 28

10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.
Bear Cubs, Baby Ducks and Kooky Kookaburras
Eyewitness: Mammal
11 a.m. – Noon & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.
A Gathering of Bears
Deer



Shown in Auditorium - Free of Charge - Groups Welcome!
Children's films 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Saturday & Sunday
All Ages films 11 a.m. – Noon & 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. Saturday & Sunday
No Reservations Required
Films are subject to change.

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Nathan Boswell.....300 hours
Linda Hibbits.....500 hours
Edward Liesenfeld.....500 hours

Dietrich Mueller.....900 hours
Joseph Schleeper.....1200 hours
Ginnie Young.....1600 hours